



Department of State

POL 14 VIETS
TELEGRAM
9/16/67
R
Saigon 6126
9-16-67

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ACTION EA 19

INFO SP 02, SS 35, GPM 03, SC 01, NSC 10, RSC 01, SAH 03, L 03, H 02, P 04,

USIA 12, INR 07, CIA 04, NSA 02, DOD 01, AID 30, ACDA 17, RSR 01, IO 21,

/178 W

R 161145Z SEP 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7032
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4272
CINCPAC FOR POLAD
AMCONSUL DANANG 977
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 225;

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY Sanford DATE 12/23/81

RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE

TS AUTH. REASON(S)

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐

DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASEABLE ☒

RELEASE DENIED ☐

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 6126

SUBJ: ELECTION OUTCOME IN AN GIANG AND CHAU DOC

REF : SAIGON 5832

1. EXPLANATION OF SURPRISING STRENGTH DEMONSTRATED
BY DZU IN HOA HAO STRONGHOLDS OF WESTERN DELTA,
DISCUSSED REFTEL, FURTHER PURSUED BY EMBOFF ON
RECENT TRIP TO AN GIANG AND CHAU DOC. EMBOFF HAS

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CONCLUDED THAT DZU VOTE IN AN GIANG MUST BE ATTRI-
BUTED LARGELY TO DZU'S VIGOROUS CRITICISM OF GVN
AND APPEAL FOR PEACE. VIET CONG SUPPORT POSSIBLY
ALSO A FACTOR BUT ONLY IN A FEW VILLAGES BORDERING
LESS SECURE NEIGHBORING PROVINCES.

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2. DZU VICTORY IN CHO MOI DISTRICT OF AN GIANG ASCRIBABLE TO SUPPORT FROM SOUTHERN CATHOLICS AND, POSSIBLY, SOME INTRUSION OF VC INFLUENCE FROM NEARBY KIEN PHONG. DISTRICT CHIEF OF CHO MOI, WHO IS FURIOUS AT SIZE OF DZU VOTE IN HIS DISTRICT, CLAIMS DZU RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM HOA HAO SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF PHAN BA CAM WHOSE UPPER HOUSE SLATE (NUMBER 10) ALSO DID SURPRISINGLY WELL IN AN GIANG, ESPECIALLY CHO MOI. DISTRICT CHIEF STATES CAM "BETRAYED" HOA HAO CENTRAL COMMITTEE WHICH SUPPORTED CAM'S LIST WHILE CAM TURNED BACK ON CENTRAL COMMITTEE ENTRIES (THE THREE "COCONUT" SLATES). LOCAL SOCIAL DEMOCRAT LEADERS DENY THESE CHARGES, SAYING PARTY NEVER STRUCK BARGAIN TO SUPPORT ANY OTHER LISTS NOR RECEIVED

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SUPPORT FROM CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR CAM'S UPPER HOUSE LIST. AMID THESE RECRIMINATIONS TRUTH IS DIFFICULT TO DISCERN, BUT IT APPEARS THAT WHILE SOME ELEMENTS OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATS PROBABLY HELPED DZU IN SOME AREAS, INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE CAN BE FOUND TO INDICATE CONSISTENT PATTERN OF DZU-CAM COLLABORATION.

3. IN CHAU DOC VIET CONG ALSO NOT LIKELY TO HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN DZU SHOWING. ALTHOUGH BOTH HOA HAO LEADERS AND PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS DWELL STRONGLY ON VC AID FOR DZU, CONTRADICTORY EVIDENCE PROVIDED BY FACT THAT DZU BEAT THIEU IN PROVINCE CAPITAL BUT DID POORLY IN RELATIVELY INSECURE DISTRICT OF TRI TON. IN AREAS NEAR HOA HAO VILLAGE HOA HAO CONCENTRATION GAVE THIEU RESOUNDING VICTORY OVER DZU BY ABOUT 15 TO 1.

4. ONE CONCLUSION TO BE DRAWN IS THAT MEMBERS OF HOA HAO CENTRAL COMMITTEE, WHO HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN BITTER SQUABBLE FOR MONTHS OVER LEADERSHIP OF THAT BODY, WERE

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NOT ABLE TO INFLUENCE VOTE OF HOA HAO MASSES AS THEY
DID IN 1966 CA ELECTIONS. THIS FRICTION CONTINUES, AS
EVIDENCED BY FACT HOA HAO CANDIDATES FOR LOWER
HOUSE HAVE YET RECEIVED CENTRAL COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT.
HOA HAO SOCILISTS APPEAR TO HAVE FIELDED ONLY A FEW
CANDIDATES.

5. DZU STRENGTH OBVIOUSLY CAUGHT LOCAL HOA HAO AND GVN
OFFICIALS BY SURPRISE. THEY RELATE THAT FIRST INDICATION
OF ASTONISHING DZU STRENGTH WAS FACT THAT BY ABOUT
ONE O'CLOCK AFTERNOON OF ELECTION DAY IT BECAME SUDDENLY APPARENT
THAT NOT MANY DZU BALLOTS WERE BEING DISCARDED.
GP-3. BUNKER

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